

"Nay" on rollcall No. 299, an amendment by Mr. FLAKE, No. 3, to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Aye" on rollcall No. 300, an amendment by Mr. HINCHEY, No. 1, to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Aye" on rollcall No. 301, an amendment by Mr. HINCHEY, No. 2, to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 302, an amendment by Mr. FLAKE, No. 6, to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 303, an amendment by Mr. FLAKE, No. 7, to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 304, an amendment by Mr. FLAKE, No. 9, to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Yea" on rollcall No. 305, final passage of H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 19, 2006 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 289, 290, and 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 5540, H.R. 5504, and H. Res. 826.

RECOGNIZING BLAKE WILLIAMS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blake Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blake has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blake has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Blake Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Refugee Day, which is the international community's day of remembrance and action on behalf of the more than 20 million refugees, who have been driven from their

homes because of war, famine, and natural disaster. World Refugee Day is intended to raise awareness of the plight of these millions of people, but more importantly, it is about the recognition that we have the power to help them and that we must.

To Americans who are blessed with the comforts of 21st Century living and an abundance of food, it is difficult to conceive of the intolerable and degrading existence in which nearly all refugees live. Today, as individuals and as a Nation, we must pledge to redouble our efforts to work with our allies, the United Nations and other regional organizations to help alleviate the suffering of the world's refugees and to address the causes that have created the world's refugee population.

As we speak, millions of Darfurians in Sudan have been driven out of their homes by the armed Janjaweed militia. Huddled in pitiful camps and under constant threat of attack, the Darfur refugees live on inadequate food and with little or no shelter. Their crops are destroyed. Their livestock have been killed and thrown into wells, poisoning the water. Their villages have been burned to the ground. Darfuri women are systematically raped, including young girls who venture out of the refugee camps for firewood.

What we are seeing in the largest country on the African continent is genocide: a calculated means of annihilating a group of people, robbing them of their chance at livelihood. International aid workers and a thin force of African Union peacekeepers are all that stands between them and death.

Addressing the refugee crisis is not only a humanitarian endeavor; it also contributes to our national security. Refugee camps have long been recognized as prime breeding grounds for extremism. As we have seen throughout the last century, wars that force large numbers of people from their homes result in regional instability, threatening American interests and our security. American and international aid can do much to ensure that refugee camps do not become the birthplace of more violence and terrorism.

While refugees are most often associated with war, it is important to recognize today that natural disasters also force people out of their homes. The Asian tsunami and the Pakistani earthquakes have created millions of displaced people and desertification and rising sea levels which are the result of climate change will create millions more.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to associate the word "refugee" with a nameless, faceless person. We must remember that refugees are mothers, fathers and children, whose lives have been destroyed by war nature's wrath.

Today we acknowledge our common humanity and pledge that every day be a day of action on behalf of those who have no voice.

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, there is no way to argue that this

war in Iraq was not badly undermined by bad planning based on bad intelligence and an abject failure to organize the international community in a meaningful way.

In short, the American people and Congress would clearly answer this question in the same way. If we knew then what we know today would we have done everything the same? Certainly not.

This is a common sense message despite the fact that the Administration is reluctant to see it. I would suggest that there is another thing that we all agree upon: the extraordinary work of the men and women who are over there fighting on our behalf, and the remarkable heroism they've shown in the face of a mission that seems to constantly change and the hostility of many Iraqis.

Yesterday, we mourned the 2,500th fatality. There have been 18,000 injuries and those of us in New York have lost 118 of our neighbors.

I believe the military mission in Iraq has been completed and our troops should be redeployed in a way to preserve the accomplishments that they've achieved and to further our objectives of defeating terrorism and stabilizing the region.

At the outset of the war the President articulated and many of us agreed that Saddam Hussein had to be removed. Our military achieved that. And there have been elections in Iraq that our military helped make happen.

Standing up of the infrastructure has been painfully slow. A Brookings Institution study that came out today showed that we still have not reached pre-war levels of oil production or available electric power.

Yet to the extent that roads and bridges and infrastructure have been created or restored in Iraq, it was through the good work of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. There have been reports of over 30,000 Iraqi civilian deaths, clean water is scarce, and unemployment hovers above 50 percent.

The question we have today as inartfully and politically posited as my friends on the other side articulate it, is how do we honor the work that has been done so far and how do we adapt to the situation that we've found?

This notion of barreling ahead while our troops become the target of so many attacks is misguided. The number of daily attacks by insurgents in May of 2003 was 5; in May of 2006 it was 90. The total number of insurgents has increased from 3,000 to 20,000 during the same time period. And Iraq has become a training ground for jihadists, with an increase in the number of foreign fighters from 100 in May 2003 to 1,500 in May 2006.

I support the position of Congressman JACK MURTHA and General Anthony Zinni, and agree with General George Casey, who said in September 2005 that, "the perception of occupation in Iraq is a driving force behind the insurgency." Now the burden lies with the Iraqi people, and our troops standing in the middle of this battlefield have become targets rather than a force for stability and peace.

As Mr. MURTHA has observed, 100,000 Shi'as fighting 20,000 Sunnis amounts to civil war, even if we choose to call it "sectarian violence." Incidents between warring Iraqi factions are up from 20 in May of last year to 250 in May of this year.

We should redeploy our troops to the horizon of the battle, out of harm's way, but close